

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 October 2001 (18.10.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/77783 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F**
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/11452
(22) International Filing Date: 6 April 2001 (06.04.2001)
(25) Filing Language: English
(26) Publication Language: English
(30) Priority Data:
60/195,870 7 April 2000 (07.04.2000) US
09/603,805 26 June 2000 (26.06.2000) US
60/273,444 5 March 2001 (05.03.2001) US

(71) Applicant: **SONY PICTURES DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT INC.** [US/US]; 3960 Ince Boulevard, #1052, Culver City, CA 90232 (US).

(72) Inventors: **RUSSELL, John, Christopher, Park**; 11427 Setrell Way, Culver City, CA 90230 (US). **OUTTEN, Todd, Avery**; P.O. Box 341831, Los Angeles, CA 90034 (US). **SPAULDING, Bryan, Gentry**; 55 Santa Clara Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94127 (US).

(74) Agent: **RITTMASER, Ted, R.**; Foley & Lardner, 35th Floor, 2029 Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA 90067-3021 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

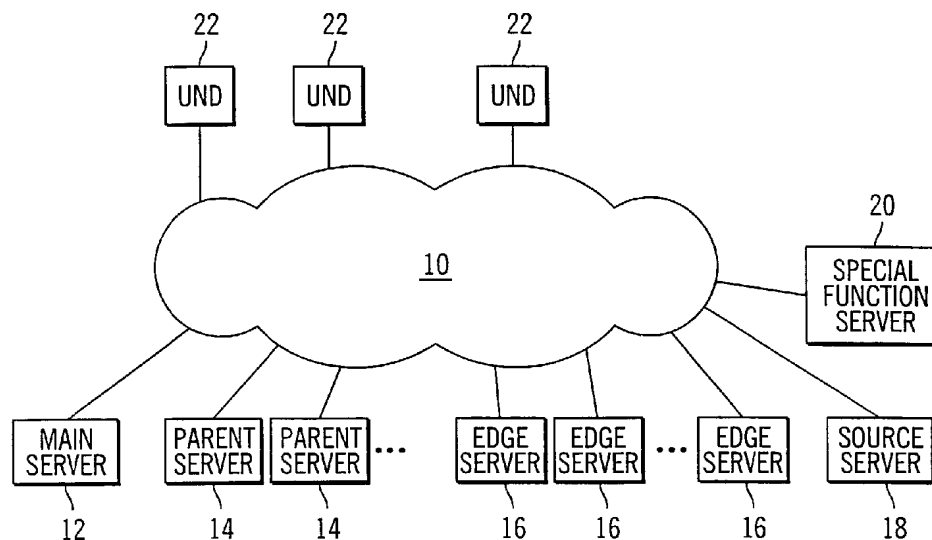
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND PROCESS FOR DELIVERY OF CONTENT OVER A NETWORK



(57) **Abstract:** Network systems and processes for delivery of relatively large electronic content items and/or a relatively large number of content items. In one example, a movie rental system delivers movie files to customers across the Internet. System network architecture includes three or more layers of servers. A main server supports a user interface. Edge servers are distributed throughout a service region in which the system provides content delivery services to recipient processors. Parent servers, spaced across the service region, support edge servers. Each content item available through the service is distributed from the main server to each parent server for storage. Parent servers distribute content to edges servers, pursuant to instructions from the main server or requests from the edge servers. The main server receives requests for content items from recipient processors and directs recipient processors to edge servers for obtaining requested content items. The main server also authenticates licenses and publishes rules for the distribution of content items.



WO 01/77783 A2

